

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 COA-02 SCCT-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 069314

R 101301Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3068

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3830

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR GLEYSTEN AND LAMBRAKIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, LE, PINS

SUBJ: INFORMATION MINISTER YARIV'S COMMENTS ON IDF NAVAL

ACTION AGAINST LEBANESE FISHING PORTS

REF: BEIRUT 7894

1. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM OFFICIAL GOI TEXT OF  
INFORMATION MINISTER YARIV'S JULY PRESS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM  
CONCERNING IDF NAVAL OPERATIONS AGAINST LEBANESE PORTS ON NIGHT  
OF JULY 8. (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED.)

2. BEGIN TEXT. "LAST NIGHT, IDF ATTACKED  
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ANCHORAGES SERVING TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AS BASES FOR THEIR

ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ONE FROM WHERE GANG OF MURDERERS SET OUT FOR NAHRIYA. LAST NIGHT'S ACTION FOLLOWED ACCUMULATING REPORTS AND INDICATIONS POINTING TO FURTHER TERRORIST MURDERS PLANNED FOR NEAR FUTURE - AND I STRESS THE TERM 'MURDER', SINCE THIS IS THEIR PRESENT METHOD OF FIGHTING.

3. "AIM OF THE ACTION WAS TO BREAK UP POSSIBLE PREPARATIONS. IT WAS ALSO INTENDED TO ACT AS DETERRENT TO THE POPULATION, WHICH IS WARNED NOT TO EXTEND AID TO TERRORISTS. AT SAME TIME, ATTACK WAS LINK IN CHAIN OF EVENTS EXPRESSING POLICY TO HIT TERRORISTS AT THEIR BASES BEFORE THEY REACH THEIR OBJECTIVES. AS RESULT OF WAR WE ARE WAGING AGAINST LEBANON-BASED TERRORISTS SINCE 1968, THEY HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON, AND ARE NOW SEEKING COVER OF CIVILIAN TARGETS - A FACT THAT CREATES CERTAIN OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR US. IDF MAKES SUPREME EFFORTS TO AVOID HITTING CIVILIANS, AND TO AIM ITS ATTACKS AT TERRORISTS WITH A MAXIMUM OF PRECISION...AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE DO NOT INTEND MASSIVE HITS AT LEBANESE CIVILIAN TARGETS - FROM HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW, AS WELL AS FOR OTHER REASONS, SINCE THIS COULD LEAD TO MILITARY INTERVENTION OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES RALLYING TO AID OF LEBANON, AND BOLSTER MILITARY STRENGTH OF LEBANON ITSELF.

4. "IT FOLLOWS THAT A WELL-CONSIDERED WAY MUST BE FOUND TO FOIL TERRORIST APPROACHES FROM SEA (WHILE THERE IS NO CERTAINTY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT EVERY BOAT BELONGS TO 'EL FATAH,' THESE BOATS ARE CERTAINLY SERVING TERRORISTS). ON ONE HAND, SUCH OPERATIONS REQUIRE HIGH DEGREE OF EFFECTIVENESS - ON OTHER HAND, THEY ARE NOT TO BE CAUSE OF DETERIORATION.

5. "THESE ARE THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT MOTIVATED GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL STAFF TO MOUNT LAST NIGHT'S OPERATION." END TEXT.

6. COMMENT. YARIV'S REMARKS CONFIRM OUR VIEW ATTACK WAS DESIGNED AS A WARNING TO GOL AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. GOI, WHILE CLEARLY PREPARED TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO HIT TERRORIST TARGETS OUTSIDE ISRAEL, IS SEEKING METHODS OTHER THAN AIR STRIKES WHICH, NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY PLANNED, INEVITABLY INVOLVE INNOCENT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. HOW GOI RETALIATION POLICY EVOLVES MAY DEPEND TO SOME DEGREE ON WHETHER OR NOT GENERAL ARIK SHARON RESIGNS HIS  
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KNESSET SEAT AND REJOINS IDF. THIS POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY PM RABIN AND DEFMIN PEREES IN PAST FEW DAYS. HIS RETURN TO ROLE OF INFLUENCE ON IDF OPERATIONS COULD INDEED PRESAGE "MORE IMAGINATIVE" RETALIATION POLICY.  
VELIOTES

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